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## **Opposition to Raised Bill No. 1146**

### **Cross Endorsements**

Connecticut is a state that supports voters' rights and seeks to increase voter participation and fair elections; democracy at its finest. Evidence of that are the implementation of same day and on line voter registration and the landmark Citizens Elections Program that not only assists in eliminating the influence of money on elections, but also levels the field for every citizen who desires to seek state office. Moving to eliminate cross endorsements contradicts and sets the state back in the progress it has made in elections.

Cross endorsements bring about positive outcomes; increased turnout, educated voters, and broad based support.

If there was, single outcome that demonstrates that cross endorsements is important it is increased voter participation. The unaffiliated voter chooses not to vote party line and often looks to vote for the minor party candidate.

Like the unaffiliated voter, voters gravitate toward parties that support their view. Minor parties present information on issues that assist in helping voters understand how those issues affects their lives and helps vet who those candidates are that best support the issue. When a candidate receives the endorsement of more than one party it encourages the voter to view the candidate as one who supports a wider variety of issues.

Minor parties provide the voter with more choices. Is that what democracy is about? It is essential to protect voters' ability to be independent without being destructive, and it would be un-democratic to make it harder for independent voices to be heard. I urge you to not support the elimination of cross endorsements in Connecticut.